

RDA Refresher Performance Support: Compilations of Multiple Language Expressions of a Work

This document provides guidance on some common cataloging issues involving resources that contain multiple language expressions of the same work. Since a compilation of works **is** a work (see RDA 5.1.2), this document also covers multiple language expressions of compilations.

Note: Some examples used in this document reflect LC practice for RDA 6.2.2.10.3 and 6.27.3.

What is an Expression?

RDA defines an expression as “The intellectual or artistic realization of a work in the form of alpha-numeric, musical or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms.” Put more simply, a *work* is just an idea. In order for human beings to perceive a work, it must be “expressed” in a way that we can process. Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* can be expressed in *text* so we can read the words. It can be expressed as *tactile text* (braille) so visually impaired persons can read the words. It can also be expressed as *spoken word* (an audio CD) so we can hear the words. All of these represent different expressions of the same work.

We as human beings primarily communicate through language, so it’s no surprise that language is an expression element, and a core element in RDA.

What is a “Language Edition”?

This is a term used in LC-PCC PS 6.27.3, but it is not defined there or in RDA. It has two meanings:

1. separate manifestations of a work in different languages and you do not know the original language; and
2. a single manifestation containing multiple expressions of the same work, and you do not know the original language.

When this occurs, you must “declare” one language to be the original for the purpose of determining the preferred title (see RDA 6.2.2.4 and the LC-PCC PS for 6.27.3).

Note that for a *translation*, you know what the original language is and you know that the expression you have is not in that original language.

Instructions about Language Expressions

Chapter 6 contains instructions on expression elements and authorized access points for expressions. The order of the chapter is important because you have, in order, instructions for work elements, instructions for expression elements, numerous instructions for works and expressions of ‘special’ types of works (musical, legal, religious, and official communications), THEN we get back to authorized access points for works in 6.27.1. If you are cataloging a resource containing a non-special work, these are the chapter 6 instructions on language expressions for you:

- 6.11 Language of Expression
- 6.13 Identifier for the Expression [if you create a NAR for the AAP for the expression]
- 6.27.3 Authorized Access Point Representing an Expression
- 6.27.4 Variant Access Point Representing a Work or Expression

Chapter 7, which is a mixture of work and expression elements, also contains instructions on expression elements, but these are all elements that cannot be included in an authorized access point. Many of these are elements that will only be used in special collections cataloging (e.g., maps, motion pictures). These are the most important chapter 7 instructions relating to language expressions for the generalist cataloger:

- 7.12 Language of the Content
- 7.13.2 Script [used for languages that can be written in multiple scripts like Serbian]

Language of Expression (6.11) versus Language of the Content (7.12)

When you record Language of Expression (6.11), you are using a controlled vocabulary term or code -- and *only* a term or code.

Authority Record Example:

100 1# \$a Allende, Isabel. \$t Casa de los espíritus. \$l English
 377 ## \$a eng
 (eng recorded for the element; English in the authorized access point)

Bibliographic Record Example:

008/35-37 eng
 041 1# \$a eng \$h spa
 240 10 \$a Casa de los espíritus. \$l English
 (eng recorded for the element; English in the authorized access point)

When you record Language of the Content (7.12), you are making a note about the details of the language of the content of the resource.

Bibliographic Record Examples:

546 ## \$a Parallel text in Spanish and Basque.

546 ## \$a Chiefly in German; summaries in English.

500 ## \$a A French translation of the Latin translation of the original Arabic text.

Authorized Access Points for Multiple Language Expressions

In AACR2, we would use 2 languages in a single authorized access point if we had a resource with 2 translations or an original and a translation. In RDA, we provide a separate authorized access point for each language expression.

AACR2: Virgil. Georgica. English & Latin
RDA: Virgil. Georgica
and
 Virgil. Georgica. English

In AACR2, we used the term “Polyglot” in a single authorized access point if we had a resource in 3 languages. In RDA, we do not record “Polyglot” since each language is separately recorded.

AACR2: Virgil. Georgica. Polyglot
RDA: Virgil. Georgica. English
and
 Virgil. Georgica. French
and
 Virgil. Georgica. Italian

Multiple Language Expressions in MARC Bibliographic Records

Examples:

041 1# \$a eng \$a lat \$h lat
 100 0# \$a Virgil, \$e author.
 245 14 \$a The Georgics of Virgil : \$b a translation / \$c by David Ferry.
 546 ## \$a Parallel text in Latin and English.
 700 1# \$a Ferry, David, \$e translator.
 700 02 \$a Virgil. \$t Georgica.
 700 02 \$a Virgil. \$t Georgica. \$l English.
*(A compilation of the original expression and the English translation of the same work.
 Virgil originally wrote Georgica in Latin so no \$l is used for the Latin expression)*

041 1# \$a spa \$a eng \$h eng
 100 1# \$a Graubart, Norman D., \$e author.
 245 10 \$a Mi pez = \$b My fish / \$c Norman D. Graubart ; traducción al español: Christina Green.
 246 31 \$a My fish
 700 1# \$a Green, Christina, \$d 1967- \$e translator.
 700 12 \$a Graubart, Norman D. \$t My fish.
 700 12 \$a Graubart, Norman D. \$t My fish. \$l Spanish.
*(A compilation of the original expression and Spanish translation of the same work.
 Although this is the first time this work has been published, we know it was translated into Spanish because of the statement of responsibility.)*

041 1# \$a spa \$a eng \$h spa
 100 1# \$a Dickinson, Emily, \$d 1830-1886, \$e author.
 245 10 \$a Poemas : \$b selección / \$c Emily Dickinson ; traducción en verso y notas de Ricardo Jordana y María Dolores Macarulla.
 546 ## \$a Poems in English and Spanish on facing pages.
 700 1# \$a Jordana, Ricardo, \$e translator.
 700 1# \$a Macarulla, María Dolores, \$e translator.
 700 12 \$a Dickinson, Emily, \$d 1830-1886. \$t Poems. \$k Selections.
 700 12 \$a Dickinson, Emily, \$d 1830-1886. \$t Poems. \$k Selections. \$l Spanish.
(A compilation of works by Dickinson expressed in the original language and Spanish translation. Dickinson originally wrote her poems in English so no \$l is used for the English expression in LC practice)

041 1# \$a lat \$a eng \$h lat
 245 00 \$a Catulli, Tibulli et Propertii opera = \$b The works of Catullus, Tibullus, and Propertius.
 246 31 \$a Works of Catullus, Tibullus, and Propertius
 700 12 \$a Catullus, Gaius Valerius. \$t Works.
 700 12 \$a Catullus, Gaius Valerius. \$t Works. \$l English.
 700 02 \$a Tibullus. \$t Elegiae.
 700 02 \$a Tibullus. \$t Elegiae. \$l English.
 700 12 \$a Propertius, Sextus. \$t Elegiae.
 700 12 \$a Propertius, Sextus. \$t Elegiae. \$l English.
(There are 3 different kinds of compilations in this resource: 1) a compilation of works of different authors; 2) three compilations of the works of an author; and 3) three compilations of expressions of the same work)

Common Questions about RDA and LC Policies

Why does LC policy say not to add language of expression for the original expression when it is in a compilation with a translation?

Answer: Because the legacy practice from AACR2 exemplified in the LC/NACO authority file did not require the addition of the language of the original language expression in most cases, LC decided not to provide the original language in \$l of the authorized access points. In essence, the authorized access point for the original work also represents the original language expression. This practice is under review by the PCC.

What do RDA and LC practice say to do about a work originally written in two languages like Tolstoy's War and peace (written in Russian with some French segments)?

Answer: RDA does not explicitly address this situation, but using the instructions in 6.11.1.4 and 6.27.3, you would provide 2 access points--one for the Russian and one for the French. LC practice is not to give such access points since there is no translation. However, you would provide both languages in the 041 field in the bibliographic record. (See DCM B5.10 for instructions on language codes in the 041 field.) Catalogers might also provide a note.

Why don't I provide an authorized access point for the work AND the expression in the bibliographic record when I have multiple expressions of the same work?

Answer: Because of the way authorized access points for expressions are constructed -- the authorized access point for the expression is the authorized access point for the **work** with an expression element or elements added to it.

Why doesn't LC differentiate among different expressions within the same language? Isn't Dryden's English translation of Virgil's Aeneis different than Dickinson's?

Answer: You are correct that Dryden's translation is a different expression than Dickinson's. The answer is that LC had to pick a point at which to stop differentiating, and we settled on language for translations, primarily due to the situation with legacy files. (FYI, there is not just one expression of Dryden's translation -- LC owns resources containing about 10 different expressions of Dryden's English translation of *Aeneis*. In order to resolve each retrospective situation, every time a new resource containing the text of the English translation of *Aeneis* by Dryden is received for cataloging, the cataloger would have to get all the books containing Dryden's translation and compare them to see WHICH of those expressions the resource contained, or if it contained a new expression). Note that some PCC libraries do distinguish among translations in the same language using an additional element (e.g., Date of Expression). As LC-PCC PS for 6.27.3 notes, LC would accept access points for such expressions in copy cataloging.

Just because these two English translations aren't differentiated in the authorized access point doesn't mean they aren't differentiated. Providing an access point for Dryden (preferably with the relationship designator *translator*) in the bibliographic record tells the user that this resource contains Dryden's English translation of *Aeneis*.

Where are the policies related to classification numbers and Cutter numbers?

Answer: Exactly where they were when you were using AACR2-- the *Classification and Shelflisting Manual (CSM)*. This document is not intended to cover those issues. However, you will probably find the answers to your questions in the *CSM*, particularly these instruction sheets: G 150 Translations/Texts in Parallel Languages, F 175 Editions, and F 633 Literary Authors: Subarrangement of Works.